

As a resident of Flagstaff, AZ, Gene invented the Branch of Astrogeology within the U.S. Geological Survey and established the Field Center in Flagstaff in 1965. After retiring from the USGS in 1993, he joined Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff. The culmination of his work came in 1993 when Gene was recognized worldwide for discovering, with his wife Carolyn and colleague David Levy, a comet near Jupiter. Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 was broken up by tidal forces from Jupiter, and fragments collided with the planet in July 1994.

Gene and his wife, Carolyn, a planetary astronomer, were a close devout couple. Their work together was recently captured in a 1997 National Geographic documentary "Asteroids: Deadly Impact." As a unique team, they initiated the Palomar Planet-crossing Asteroid Survey in 1973, and the Palomar Asteroid and Comet Survey in 1983. They were the leading discoverers of comets in this century.

Dr. Edward Bowell, an astronomer at Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, AZ, said: "Gene practically single-handedly 'invented' our knowledge of the impacts of comets and asteroids on Earth and in the solar system in general. He was a renaissance man, having one of the broadest grasps of any scientist I know, working as a geologist, training to be an astronaut, dating the surfaces of the Moon and other satellites, and helping, with his wife Carolyn, discover more interesting comets and asteroids than any other person. I am stunned to think of the store of unique knowledge that has perished with him. As a scientific colleague and friend, his guidance was unerring and will be irreplaceable."

As Senator from the State of Arizona and chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, I would like to express my sorrow on the loss of this great man and scientist. His contributions to the field of science are duly noted by myself and others in the science community.●

ANNIE CAMPBELL, A 79-YEAR-OLD NURSE VOLUNTEER FOR MANNA MEAL

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I would like to take this moment to praise a citizen of West Virginia, Annie Campbell. Annie has recently received the J.C. Penney Golden Rule award for her outstanding volunteer community service.

Annie has been volunteering her time for Manna Meal for the past 20 years, and has seen it expand considerably. Even though she is nearing 80 years old, Annie pursues her service with confidence and generosity. She drives to pick up food at local businesses and hospitals and sometimes helps to serve the food to the people who come to Manna Meal. She loves to give a helping hand to those in need. She says, "You feel good to know you've done something to alleviate hunger."

Annie's life is built around helping people. She is a registered nurse at the Charleston Area Medical Center's General Division, and a leader in her church, where she is the secretary, a circle leader, on the mission committee, and on the kitchen committee. Annie is a committed woman to her community.

Manna Meal provides food for the hungry. Annie says, "A lot of people who come to Manna Meal are not food hungry, they are companionship hungry." She helps with both. She provides food and friendship for those who attend the meals. Manna Meal is run by volunteers and donations. Annie has watched Manna Meal expand from a tiny soup kitchen serving 40 to large service providing for 300.

Volunteer service is vital to West Virginia and America because it is done on a personal and natural level. It is comforting to hear that there are people who willingly dedicate their lives to helping those in need. West Virginia is extremely lucky to have Annie in the State, and I am proud to make this statement regarding her award today.

The J.C. Penney Golden Rule award had several other recipients in different categories. The other local winners included Sue Meadows, Ernest Matthew Stone, and the Volunteers of PRO-KIDS. They are now going to step up to the National Golden Rule Awards, and are eligible for a \$10,000 donation to their organization. All of these volunteers need to be congratulated for their effort and generosity, and I wish them luck in the next round of competition.●

COSPONSORSHIP OF AMENDMENT 885 TO S. 955

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to offer my support as a cosponsor to Amendment 885 to S. 955, the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act. This amendment restores the \$2.1 billion earmark for assistance to Egypt.

Ever since the signing of the Camp David Accords, Egypt has been a key ally of the United States in the Middle East. The first Arab country to make peace with Israel, Egypt has been a steadfast leader and supporter of peace in the Middle East. Indeed, I feel it is safe to say that it is because Egypt signed the peace agreement with Israel in 1979 that there has not been an Arab-Israeli War since. What is more, since 1979 both Israel and Egypt have experienced significant economic growth. Peace between these two nations has brought success and prosperity that has benefitted the entire region.

The chairman of the Subcommittee has stated his reasons for not including the earmark to Egypt in the Foreign Operations bill in either the subcommittee nor committee. He believed the relationship between Egypt and the United States has suffered over the past year. Thus, the message he wished

to send to Egypt was clear disappointment with Egypt's actions and policies in connection with the stalled peace process in the Middle East.

I do not believe, however, that it is either productive or responsible to send such a message at this delicate time in the Middle East peace process. The peace process is at its most critical stage. Along with the United States, Egypt is a key player in convincing parties to that process to come back to the negotiating table. Moreover, Egypt has played a key role in securing agreements reached between Israel and Jordan and the Palestinians. It is in the best interest of the United States to keep our key allies in the Middle East engaged in a process needed to produce a just and lasting peace—a goal which will benefit America's strategic, economic and political interests.

Equally important, Egypt is a strategic ally of the United States irrespective of the peace process. We all remember how Egypt provided the leadership needed to form the American/Arab coalition that liberated Kuwait. No other country in the Arab World could have done that. Moreover, more than 35,000 Egyptian soldiers fought alongside our troops. Without access to the Suez Canal and to Egyptian airspace and facilities, supporting our troops in the Gulf would have been significantly more difficult and much more costly.

Egypt's strategic importance should not be underestimated. With the Suez Canal and its location on both the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea, Egypt is the gateway to Africa, the Near East and Southwest Asia. Our strategic interests in all three regions are furthered significantly by Egypt's willing cooperation.

Egypt's cooperation with our military has a global impact. As our strategic ally, Egypt routinely cooperates with our military in providing hundreds of overflight and transit rights for U.S. military logistics aircraft supporting American forces in the region. Our naval vessels travel through the Suez Canal—a practice critical to our ability to protect U.S. vital interests in the region. Without the ability to use the Suez routinely, an advantage we now enjoy, our Navy's operating costs and personnel operating requirements would soon rise to unsustainable levels.

I agree with the Chairman of the Subcommittee that foreign aid is not an entitlement. It is my sincere hope that one day in the near future Egypt will find that U.S. aid is not necessary. Signs of this are already apparent within Egypt's booming economy and burgeoning private sector. We in the United States should encourage this path of independence, growing capitalism and economic reform. But until Egypt becomes economically self-sufficient, we should continue to live up to our promises as dictated in the Camp David Accords. Any future reduction of assistance should follow consultations